

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 8, 9 and 22 as being anticipated by Boehland under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following concise comments.

Applicant notes that the Boehland valve is one in which the valve member 16, as seen in Fig. 2, has a conically narrowing shape starting at the axially extending (or circumferential) face 35. The Office Action appears to suggest that the valve member conical face is Applicant's claimed guide surface. Accepting that as the Examiner's position, Applicant would further note that his valve member 10 as shown in Fig. 6 has the step 15 formed by an offset in the valve member 10 and adjoined by the guide surface 16 formed on the valve member. That arrangement, unlike the Boehland valve, forms a substantially plate (or disk)-shaped surface. Boehland neither anticipates nor even suggests the claimed subject matter. Whatever unidentified structure the Office Action considers to be the "step" in Boehland, that step and the conical guide surface do not read on the claimed invention herein.

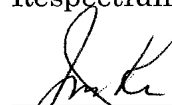
Accordingly, entry of the amendments and early allowance of the remaining claims are earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038738.48700).

Respectfully submitted,

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